United Nations E/2015/NGO/43

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2015

Original: English

2015 session
21 July 2014-22 July 2015
Agenda item 5 (c)
High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Statement submitted by Smile Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08594 (E) 100615

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Statement

Introduction:

Children bear the brunt of extreme poverty. Around 400 million children in the world under the age of 13 live in extreme poverty. Building on the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals as a holistic sustainable evolution/extension should be an integrated agenda for economic, environmental and social solutions covering dignity, people, planet, partnership, justice and prosperity to benefit all, in particular the children of the world, youth and future generations of the world, without distinction of any kind such as age, sex, disability, culture, race, ethnicity, origin, migratory status, religion, economic or other status.

Smile Foundation has adopted a holistic approach of social development, like quality education for children, maternal and child healthcare, skill enhancement for youth and empowerment of women and girls to act as change agents and be the torch bearers for future generations.

Smile Foundation has a unique and innovative working model — Social Venture Philanthropy, based on venture capital towards ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity, including sharing that prosperity with future generations. The core idea behind this approach not only identifies and implements its development projects through credible grassroots community based organizations but also builds capacities of these organizations, focusing on achieving scalability and sustainability, creating a culture of leadership and excellence and inculcating a deep sense of accountability among them.

Sustainable development depends on the power of the new agenda to inspire and mobilize new and existing partnerships. Smile works in collaboration with different stakeholders like national and international corporate, institutions, local government bodies, etc. Currently, Smile is working with more than 200 grassroots community based organization partners in more than 800 remote villages and slums across 25 states of India and directly benefitting over 300,000 children and their families every year.

Smile Foundation believes that unless members of the civil society are involved proactively in the process of transition, sustainable development will not happen. Believing in this principle of 'Civic Driven Change', Smile sensitizes the civil society with special focus on children in order to make them partners in its mission. At Smile, we strongly believe that Social Venture Philanthropy partnership approach involves commitment of time and resources, which brings enormous impact on our nation's and the world's most challenging social problems in a culturally sensitive and institutionally effective manner.